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Promoting and protecting the health of the public and the environment.

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July 1, 2006

Dear South Carolina School Superintendent:

Since 2003, SC DHEC has been required by law (Regulation 61-20) to publish lists of those health conditions that would preclude children and staff from attending school or out-of-home childcare settings. Since the lists tell when students and staff should be excluded, they are referred to as "Exclusion Lists."

There are two Exclusion Lists maintained by SC DHEC.

- The **School Exclusion List** applies to most students enrolled in grades 1-12.
- The **Childcare Exclusion List** applies to all children in out-of-home childcare, children in 3-, 4-, or 5-year-old kindergarten, and "medically fragile students" in grades 1-12. For the purposes of School Exclusion, "medically fragile students" are those with special healthcare needs or developmental delays who require close assistance with feeding or other personal hygiene activities by which communicable illnesses may easily be spread.

We are posting on our website (www.scdhec.gov/health/disease/exclusion.htm) the following resources for you, school principals, school nurses and families:

- The 2006-2007 School Exclusion List.
- A Parent Brochure explaining the School Exclusion List, with a "Dear Parent" cover letter.
- The 2006-2007 Childcare Exclusion List.
- A Parent Brochure explaining the Childcare Exclusion List, with a "Dear Parent" cover letter.

To implement the Exclusion Lists per Regulation 61-20, schools should:

- Provide a copy of the appropriate School or Childcare Exclusion List to all parents/guardians. **Providing parents with copies of the appropriate brochure(s) meets this requirement. Ready-to-print Parent Brochures and Parent Cover Letters are available at www.scdhec.gov/health/disease/exclusion.htm.**
- Inform parents that they must notify the school within 24 hours after their child has developed a disease or condition found on the Exclusion Lists.
- Maintain a record of children and childcare staff excluded under this regulation.
- Report confirmed cases of communicable diseases as indicated on the Exclusion Lists, and report clusters of symptoms to the local/regional Health Department. A map to assist you in finding Health Department phone numbers is available on the DHEC Health Services website: www.scdhec.gov/health/.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your local/regional health department and ask to speak with someone about the School and Childcare Exclusion Lists. Thank you for helping us keep our state's children healthy and ready to learn.

Sincerely,

James J. Gibson, MD, MPH
Director, SC DHEC Bureau of Disease Control

CC: South Carolina School Principals & Directors
School Nurses